

REMARKS

Claims 4, 6, 9 to 13, 15 and 19 to 23 are in this application and are presented for reconsideration. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claims 4, 6, 9, 15, and 19 to 21 and 23, and canceled Claims 1 to 3, 5, 7 to 8, 14, and 16 to 18 to address issues raised in the Office Action and get the Application allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful reading of the application. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter. It is Applicant's position that all issues have now been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance.

The Office Action dated June 6, 2005 objected to the claims 8, 9, 18, and 19 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but stated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten claim 4 by incorporating the combination of features of claim 8 and intervening claims into the amended claim 4. Claim 9 has been amended to depend on claim 4 which includes the allowable combination of features of claim 8. Similarly, Applicant has amended claim 15 by incorporating the combination of features of the allowable claim 18 and amending the allowable claim 19 to depend on the amended claim 15 instead of claim 18.

Claims 6 and 10 to 13 now depends on the allowable claim 4 and include combination of features of the allowable claim 4. Thus, it is Applicant's position that claims 6 and 10 to 13 should also be allowable. Similarly, claims 20 to 23 now depend on the allowable claim 15 and thus, these claims should also be allowable as well.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 to 13, 15 to 17, and 20 to 23 under

35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,584,817) alone or in view of Crossley et al.(U.S. Patent No. 3,978,640). Although Applicant has amended the allowable claims to get the Application issued as patent, Applicant neither admits any valid prior art references nor forgoes any rights to argue against such prior art in the future with regard to other claims. At this time, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and remarks, and Applicant respectfully solicits allowance of this application.

It is applicant's position that all claims are now allowable. Should the Examiner determine that issues remain that have not been resolved by this response, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted
for Applicant,

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SHOULD ANY OTHER FEE BE REQUIRED, THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE IS HEREBY REQUESTED TO CHARGE SUCH FEE TO OUR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT 13-0410.